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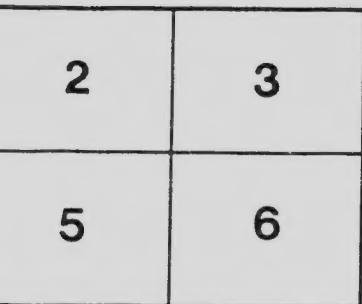
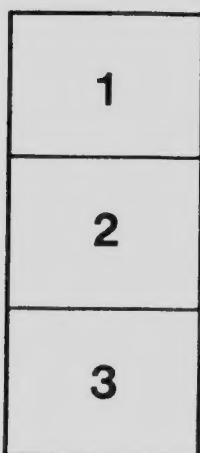
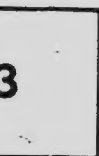
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HORTICULTURE IN SASKATCHEWAN

BY

GEORGE LANG, *Assistant.*

In southern Saskatchewan, where wheat growing is the chief occupation of the farmer, horticulture has not received the attention in the past that it deserves, and it is to be regretted that only a small percentage of the settlers have yet made any attempt at tree planting or otherwise beautifying the home surroundings. Undoubtedly the average farmer is a very busy man owing to the short season in which he has to crowd a great deal of work, but we believe that a little time spent in planting some trees and ornamental shrubs, and the laying out of a vegetable and flower garden will be found most profitable as well as a source of pleasure to all. There is no doubt that the value of a farm is greatly increased by the judicious planting of trees and otherwise beautifying the home surroundings. From the correspondence received at the Experimental Farm at Indian Head, we have arrived at the conclusion that it is the farmers' wives who deserve a great deal of the credit for the work already done.

THE FARM GARDEN.

In order to be assured of success with small fruits, vegetables, etc., it is necessary to establish a good windbreak around the plot of ground selected for the garden. There are a number of trees and shrubs that are being used with success, but we are satisfied after years of observation that Caragana (*Caragana arborescens*) is by far the most suitable. It is a quick, close grower, is ornamental, and does not impoverish the soil to the extent that other sorts do. A limited quantity of seedlings or seed may be procured by applying to the Experimental Farm.

In laying out a garden it is advisable to arrange it so that a horse scuttler may be used to advantage as it saves a great deal of manual labour and is more effective than hoeing. Were the garden to comprise one acre, we would recommend a plot 120 by 363 feet. The small fruits and permanent beds such as strawberries, asparagus, and rhubarb can be established at one end, one-half of the balance used for vegetables and the unplanted portion summer-fallowed each season. Where a smaller garden is desired and summer-fallowing cannot be done, we advise fall preparation of the soil. Spring ploughing or digging seldom proves successful unless the season is blessed by a heavy rainfall. On new land it is not necessary to apply manure for a few seasons, in fact, with our rich prairie soil good crops of vegetables can be grown for a number of seasons without manure. On old land or light sandy soil it is well to apply a good coating of well rotted manure in the fall before ploughing.

DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

J. H. GRISDALE, B.Agr.,
Director.

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Indian Head, Sask.

EXHIBITION CIRCULAR No. 76.

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HOTBEDS.

Owing to the short season in Saskatchewan it is advisable to use a hotbed to start early plants, care being taken not to sow the seed too early, in which case the plants become too spindly and tender and do not stand transplanting as well as later sown seed. From the 15th to 20th of April is early enough for the average season. A useful and cheap hotbed may be constructed from a few rough boards and the storm windows from the house, or plants may be started in window boxes and later transplanted to a cold frame. Send for our Exhibition Circular No. 16, "How to make and use a Hotbed and cold frame."

VEGETABLES.

We herewith give a list of vegetables that have been tested for three or more years and have proved perfectly satisfactory both as to quality and yield.

Asparagus.—Barr, Mammoth and Conover Colossal.

Beans.—Wardwell, Kidney Wax, Refugee, Extra Early Refugee.

Beets.—Eclipse, Early Blood Red Turnip, Ruby Dulcet.

Corn.—Improved Squaw, Metropolitan, Golden Bantam.

Carrots.—Improved Nantes, French Horn, Half Long Chantenay.

Celery.—Giant Pascal, Paris Golden Yellow, White Plume, Rose Ribbed.

Early Cabbage.—Early Jersey Wakefield, Paris Market, Copenhagen Market.

Late Cabbage for winter keeping.—Danish Round Head, Magdeburg, Flat Drum-head.

Cauliflower.—Early Snowball, Danish Giant.

Cucumbers.—Prize Pickling, Giant Pera, Peerless White Spine, Rollison Telegraph.

Lettuce.—Giant Crystal Head, Iceberg, Grand Rapids.

Musk Melon.—Salzer Earliest Ripe, Earliest of All.

Onions.—Denver's Yellow Globe, Large Red Wethersfield, Red Australian Brown.

Peas.—Gradus, Gregory Surprise, Heroine, Juno, Thomas Laxton.

Parsley.—Double Curled.

Parsnips.—Hollow Crown, Intermediate.

Radish.—French Breakfast, Early Scarlet White Tipped.

Rhubarb.—Victoria, Tobolsk, Strawberry.

Squash.—Long White Marrow, Hubbard, Early White Bush Scalloped, Crook Neck.

Table Turnips.—Favourite, Early Strap-leaved, Extra Early White Milan.

Tomatoes.—Sparks Earliana, Adirondack Earliana, Sunnybrook Earliana.

POTATOES.

By selecting suitable varieties of potatoes excellent crops both in quality and yield can be raised in Saskatchewan. This is one line of work that has received particular attention for a great many years at the Indian Head Experimental Farm. Thousands of samples are sent out each season, and in this way thousands of settlers have been able to start with pure seed. A good piece of summer-fallow makes an ideal potato plot. Good results are also obtained on well worked backsetting. Manure applied the same year as planting is liable to cause scab. A good plan is to manure the land in the fall and grow a crop of roots or corn, following this with potato crop the next season.

For an early maturing variety we recommend Early Ohio and Eureka Extra Early, the latter being very similar to the Irish Cobbler. For a main crop, Gold Coin, Money Maker, Manitoba Wonder and Table Talk. Later varieties, Wee MacGregor, Carman No. 1, and Houlton Rose. Potatoes should be scuffled two or three times and then hilled up. Our experiments go to show that more than three cultivations lessen the yield. Seed cut to two eyes, as a rule, gives the largest yield. Seed should be soaked for three hours in a solution of formalin for the prevention of scab. One pound formalin to 30 gallons of water will be found effective. Apply for a sample of potatoes in the fall, also a copy of our bulletin on Potato Culture.

BUSH FRUITS.

Most bush fruits do well in Southern Saskatchewan provided they are protected by a windbreak and given the proper attention in the way of pruning and cultivating. Grass and weeds should never be allowed to grow amongst the bushes, as they require every bit of moisture available in order to give a good quantity and quality of fruit. Up to the present, insects have given very little trouble in Saskatchewan. Late spring frosts are more to be feared, but some claim to overcome this to a great extent by spreading a mulch of straw or manure around the roots, thereby holding the frost in the ground in the spring, which keeps the bush from throwing out its blossoms too early. Below is given a list of varieties that can be recommended:—

Raspberries.—Herbert, Cuthbert, Sunbeam, Dr. Reider, Early King, and Golden Queen (white).

Red Currants.—Victoria Red, Rankins Red, Wilder, Red Dutch, Red Grape.

White Currants.—White Grape, White Cherry, Large White, Verrieres White.

Black Currants.—Climax, Collins Prolific, Eagle, Dominion, Eclipse, Magnus, Saunders, Victoria Black.

Gooseberries require winter protection and should be covered with earth for a winter or so until they become well established and even later on. Large bushes may be protected by covering with stable manure. This helps to gather the snow and affords sufficient protection. Varieties recommended are: Ruth, Downing, Smith Improved, Houghton, Red Jacket. Houghton is the most satisfactory.

Strawberries.—Several varieties of strawberries have proved suitable and can be recommended for Saskatchewan. Senator Dunlap is undoubtedly the hardiest, while Beder Wood, though less hardy, gives slightly larger berries. Both are perfect flowering varieties.

Strawberries require winter protection, and should be covered with straw or stable manure, care being taken not to cover until the ground is well frozen. The idea is to prevent alternate thawing and freezing of the ground in the spring and to delay blossoming to avoid injury from spring frosts. From two to three inches of covering is sufficient.

TREE FRUITS.

Crab apples and plums of several varieties are proving a success at the Experimental Farm, and give good crops almost every season.

ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS.

Beautify your home by planting a few lilacs, honeysuckles, caragana or other flowering shrubs. The variety of hardy and suitable sorts is limited, but there are a number that have proved suitable beyond a doubt. A limited number of shrub seedlings are available each season at the Indian Head Farm.

ANNUAL FLOWERS.

A number of years of experimental work has proved that a large variety of annual flowers are suitable for planting in Saskatchewan. A limited number may be sown in the open and will come into bloom early in the season. The majority, however, require to be started in a hotbed or window box in order to have them far enough advanced to transplant early in June. They will then come into full bloom throughout July, August and the early part of September. Tulips are the only bulbs that can be recommended for outside planting in this province. These should be planted from the first to fifteenth of October. They will come into bloom early in May and when through flowering can be taken up and the beds replanted with annuals. In this manner, bloom may be had almost continually from early in May until late in October. The tulip bulbs should be dried out and put away for planting again the following fall.

PERENNIAL FLOWERS.

No one who is a lover of flowers should be content until he has established a good large bed of perennials. These show up to greater advantage if planted in a long, narrow border alongside a fence or hedge, and if care is taken in arranging the taller growing varieties at the back and the lower sorts at the front a fine effect can be obtained.

There are quite a large number of varieties that are perfectly hardy and will withstand our severe winters if given a little protection during the winter. Straw or stable manure can be used, or if snow can be collected on the bed it is almost as effective. Some of the hardiest kinds are Peonies, Iris, Day Lily, Larkspur, Perennial Phlox, Dianthus, Sweet William, Oriental Poppy, Foxglove, Trollius and numerous others which are mentioned in our annual reports and bulletins.

Bulletins and leaflets are issued dealing with the different branches of horticulture. Copies will be mailed on application and letters of inquiry answered by return mail. Write to the Division of Extension and Publicity, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Ont., and ask to have your name placed on the permanent mailing list. By doing this you will receive the new bulletins as they are issued by the Dominion Experimental Farms.







